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Spenser's lost sonnets—"as well sayth the poet elsewhere in one of his sonnets—

The silver swan doth sing before her dying day
As she that feels the deepe delight that is in death."

Also in the general preface to the *Complaints* we have mentioned as one of Spenser's lost poems *The Dying Pellican*. Now the sonnets on ff. 3^a, ^b, though they are assigned by Dr. Grosart in his 1876 edition of Breton's poems to Breton, on the ground that, as many of the poems in the ms. volume are undoubtedly Breton's, the remainder must also be assigned to him, are to me interesting as they raise the question, are they two of Spenser's lost sonnets? In both the dying pellican is mentioned, and in both occur lines that are very similar to the lines above quoted. I quote the sonnets entire :

"The pretie Turtle dove, that with no little moane
When she hathe lost her make, sitts moorninge all alone
The Swanne that alwaies sings an houre before her deathe
Whose deadlie gryves do give the grones that drawe awaie
her breathe

The Pellican that pecks the blud out of her brest
And by her deathe doth onlie feed her younge ones in
the nest

The harte emparked cloase : within a plott of grounde
Who dare not overlook the pale fer feare of hunters hounde
The hounde in kennell tyed that heares the chase goe by
And bootles wishing foote abroad, in vaine doth howle
and crye

The tree with withered top, that hath his braunches deade
and hangeth downe his highest bowes, while other should
upp heade

Endure not half the deathe, the sorrowe nor disgrace
that my poore wretched mind abids, where none can waile
my case."

"Ffor truth hath loste his trust, more dere than turtle dove
and what a death to suche a life ; that such a paine doth
prove

The swan for sorrow singes, to see her deathe so nye
I die because I see my deathe, and yet I can not dye.
The Pelican doth feed her younge ones with her bludd
I bleed to death to feede desires yt doe me never good
My hart emparked rounde within the grounde of greif
is so besett with houndes of hate : yt lookes for no relief
And swete desire my dogg is clogged so with care
he cries and dies to here delightes and come not wher
they are

My tree of true delight, is rokde with sorrow see
As but the hevenes do soon helpe, will be his overthrowe
In summe my dole, my deathe, and my disgrace is such
As never man that ever lyvde knewe ever halfe so muche."

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TWO NOTES ON DANTE.

1. NOTE ON *Piers Plowman*, B TEXT III, 190, AND VI, 62.

Piers Plowman, B Text III, 190 and VI, 62
read respectively as follows :

Crope into a Kaban for colde of *bi* nailles.

My cokeres and my coffes for colde of *my* nailles.

The line of A Text (III, 184) corresponding to the first of these lines reads *creptest* for *crope* and shows no other essential difference ; and VII, 56 of A Text, which is the prototype of B. VI, 62 has *his* for *my* throughout, with no other change. Neither line occurs in C Text.

This use of the nails to indicate the feeling of extreme cold is quite natural, but apparently just as unusual ; for I have found it paralleled in two passages only. The first is from Dante *Inf.* xvii, 85-86 :

Qual è colui c'ha sì presso il riprezzo

Della quartana, c'ha già l'unghie smorte.

("As one who has the shivering of the quartan so near, that he has his nails already pale," Carlyle's tr.)

The second is from Shakespeare, *L. L. L.* v, ii, 915-916 :

When icicles hang by the wall,

And Dick the shepherd blows his nail.

2. NOTE ON DANTE *Purg.* II, 98-99.

The passage reads as follows :

Veramente *da tre mesi* egli ha tolto

Chi ha voluto entrar, con tutta pace.

("Truly, for *three months past*, he hath taken, in all peace, whoso hath wished to enter," Okey's tr.)

Whatever be the specific views of the various commentators as to the date of Dante's entrance upon his journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise, all are agreed that it should be placed somewhere near Easter, 1300. The *three months* spoken of in the quotation above are usually taken to refer to the duration of the Jubilee of Boniface VIII.¹ But the decree establishing the Jubilee is dated Feb. 23, 1300 ; and so, as a matter of fact, the general period of indulgence was about six weeks ; even though the decree is retroactive.

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¹ See Scartazzini's notes on the lines.